

This I Believe (LA essay final Draft)

I am only fourteen. Come to think of it, maybe I was just not mature enough to have a personal voice. It was a couple of years ago that my essay was marked 'No unique writing style'. I had thought: How can it be? I started to doubt myself and my writing style, if there was any to speak of. I was rather upset, because it was something I had, maybe, naively believed in for so long. Although I like writing, I was never really good at it. Nonetheless, I had always believed in my own writing.

As a child, I used to fantasize of becoming a famous author, penning bestsellers in a lovely house by the hillside. I dreamt that if my works don't get published in my lifetime, my children would find some of them in my drawer after I die, publish them and get rich off the sales of my books. I ever told myself, that even if I couldn't churn out a decent novel, I would want to write a children's book someday. These dreams may sound farfetched, but deep inside me, I still wish one of those could happen, one day.

I reflected for a while over that bad mark on my essay, and I came some sort of a conclusion to comfort myself. I thought, who knows, maybe my style is plain simplicity, so others can read my writing easily. In fact, I always found most of those great literary works so hard to read, thinking they might have tried too hard. I have to guess the meanings of half the words, I never fail to get a throbbing headache, and I can't continue after three pages. Truly, I admire their talent, but those just aren't for me, not now, at least.

I might say that I believe in my own writing, but is that necessarily a good or a bad thing? Honestly, I know my writing isn't all that awesome. I know where I stand, and yet I stand firm in my belief. After all, this is *my* belief. I'm not writing for anyone but myself... and maybe the teachers who mark my essays. I must clarify, though; I'm not particularly fond of school based essays, as I can't seem to express myself properly under the pressure of being graded. Also, I feel that assessments are never a good gauge of how well a student can write; I prefer to just tell my own story. Marks are but a number that will end up meaningless and forgotten, but the content of an honest piece of writing can last as a heartwarming memory forever.

Still, I am currently trying to hone my writing style in all of my writings, be it for school work or my own interest, into something that constantly shouts 'me'. I know that with time and effort, I can improve. And meanwhile, I just have to keep believing... believing in my own writing.